

type of medication. A misspelled drug name, illegible handwriting, or if the physician is not aware of a patient's other prescriptions, these can all lead to problems.

Yesterday, the House passed the Health Information Technology Promotion Act to help doctors and hospitals work together to eliminate drug errors. Computerized prescriptions instantaneously give physicians vital information and double-check all prescriptions to put patient safety first.

To learn more about eliminating preventable medication errors, or other ways we can save lives and save money in health care, I would urge my colleagues to visit my Web site at [murphy.house.gov](http://murphy.house.gov).

#### DO-LESS-THAN-DO-NOTHING CONGRESS LEAVES AGAIN WITHOUT ADDRESSING AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as the Republicans prepare to leave on a 5-week vacation, this Congress is best described as the "do-less-than-do-nothing Congress."

Despite the fact that the minimum wage has not been increased in 9 years, House Republicans refuse to allow a clean vote on the minimum wage, which will prevent 6 million Americans from receiving a much needed pay raise. If Republicans were really interested in raising the minimum wage, they wouldn't attach it to bills they know will never be signed into law.

And despite the fact that Republicans have been critical of border security, they continue to refuse to come to the negotiating table so that we can pass a comprehensive immigration and border security bill into law this year.

And despite the fact that gas prices are once again at record highs, House Republicans have yet to pass a tough price gouging bill into law, and refuse to join us in repealing \$20 billion in tax breaks and subsidies to their friends in Big Oil.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have every reason to be disgusted with this House. It is time we take America in a new direction. The American people want a Congress that works for them.

#### NATIONAL MOTTO: IN GOD WE TRUST

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this House has much tradition and history. We start each day every day with a prayer to the Almighty, the Pledge, and the flag is displayed in the center of this House. Above that flag, appropriately so, is the phrase, "In God We Trust."

Fifty years ago this month, President Eisenhower signed legislation de-

claring this to be our national motto. Our great leaders believed in this self-evident truth.

Benjamin Franklin said at the Constitutional Convention, "The longer I live, the more convinced I see this truth, God governs the affairs of men, and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?"

President George Washington, in his first inaugural address said: "It would be improper to omit in this first official act, my fervent supplications to the Almighty Being who rules this universe, who presides in the councils of nations."

And finally, Thomas Jefferson said, "Our liberties are the gift of God."

Mr. Speaker, we must and shall preserve, believe and uphold America's motto, "In God We Trust."

And that's just the way it is.

#### MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about the Republican leadership and the fact that they are ignoring the needs of millions of Americans who right now are making minimum wage. They haven't seen an increase in over 10 years.

They are holding the pay raise for American workers hostage by adding partisan poison pills that will damage and ruin a clean minimum-wage bill that the Democrats support.

Americans deserve a straight up-or-down vote on increasing the minimum wage for working families, most of whom are women, single head of household with children.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents know that you can't fool them. They know that the Republicans' attempt to pass a minimum-wage bill that includes harmful, unrelated legislation is just not going to pass this House.

Come November, Democrats are going to stand up, and they are going to fight with us, and we are going to take back this House.

I urge all my colleagues to reject the proposed Republican poison bills and allow a clean vote up or down on the minimum-wage bill.

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#### COMMENDING THE U.S. COAST GUARD

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 1-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, it is appropriate that we remember the valiant service of the U.S. Coast Guard. During our Nation's most destructive

natural disaster, these men and women went above and beyond the call of duty.

The sheer magnitude of the Guard's response was astounding. One-third of its air fleet was deployed in the Gulf region. Six years of search-and-rescue operations were completed in 1 week. More than 33,520 lives were saved.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that these servicemembers were not unaffected bystanders. Sixty-nine percent of Coast Guard members were themselves victims of the hurricane; yet they put their own distress aside to save those in need. These men and women are truly American heroes, despite negative, false reporting by the drive-by media.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### ATTACKING OIL COMPANY PROFITS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Exxon reported its second-highest quarterly profit ever. Net income, \$10 billion, up 36 percent. But they are not the only ones raking in the cash. Shell reported a 40-percent increase in profit. BP, a 30-percent increase. ConocoPhillips, a 65-percent increase in profit.

And whom does this oil industry have to thank? Lee Raymond and his outsized \$400 million retirement package?

No. The oil companies have the Republican Congress to thank for their huge bank accounts. In 2005, the oil and gas companies spent \$86 million lobbying the United States Congress, and they received \$14.5 billion in taxpayer-funded handouts. You cannot get that type of return on Wall Street or in Vegas. \$86 million for lobbying, \$14.5 billion in corporate welfare. So Americans are paying twice, once when they fill up their tanks, and then again on April 15.

We must stop handing out welfare checks to Big Oil. It is high time big oil companies got off the taxpayer dole.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a change. And it is time for a new direction.

#### MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT HEARING

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to advise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, maybe it is because I am also a physician, but one of the questions I get most frequently at town hall meetings or just after the town hall meeting is: How come I turned 65 and I have got to change doctors?

The reason, Mr. Speaker, is because we are relying on a formula, a 10-year-old formula, a failed formula that does not adequately reimburse physicians'